

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 AID-20

EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /135 R

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TREASURY:MR. SHAPIRO (SUBS)

EB/IFD/OIA:MR. ELLIS (INFO)

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O R 112313Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135936

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PFOR, IBRD, GH

SUBJECT: GHANA DEBT: MEETING WITH GHANAIS: RESPONSE TO
LE QUESNE

1. FOLLOWING IS RESPONSE FROM DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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SMITH TO FCO UNDER SECRETARY MARTIN LE QUESNE'S LETTER ON

GHANA DEBT RECEIVED THROUGH BRITISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON JULY 11, WHICH IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. EMBASSY LONDON REQUESTED DELIVER REPLY TO LE QUESNE JULY 12.

2. QUOTE DEAR MARTIN: WE HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED YOUR NEWS THAT IT HAS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE THE MEETING TO WHICH WE INVITED THE GHANAIS LAST MAY AND WHICH THEY HAVE ACCEPTED. YOUR EMBASSY HERE IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN PROVIDED WITH THE INTELLIGENCE WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM ACCRA INDICATING THAT THE GHANAIS ARE PREPARED TO SEE CLARIFICATION TALKS EVOLVE INTO AT LEAST THE INITIAL PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE ALSO HAVE PASSED ALONG KWAME FORDWOR'S REPORT THAT COLONEL ACHEAMPONG FAVORS AN EARLY DEBT SETTLEMENT. I BELIEVE THOSE GHANAIS WHO ARE ANXIOUS FOR A DEBT SETTLEMENT WILL FEEL FRUSTRATED WHEN THEY LEARN THAT THE CREDITORS CANNOT MEET WITH GHANAIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN JULY. AS THIS DELAY PROBABLY WILL ENTAIL POSTPONEMENT OF SUCH A MEETING UNTIL OCTOBER, I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO TRY TO MINIMIZE THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT BY BEING AS RESPONSIVE AS WE CAN TO THEIR EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR CLARI-

FICATION TALKS.

3. EARLIER THIS MONTH, IN OUR DISCUSSION OF CONTINGENCY PLANS WITH MR. THORP OF YOUR EMBASSY, WE WERE INFORMED THAT YOU WOULD WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER CREDITOR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE VISIT YOU PROPOSED TO MAKE TO ACCRA FOR CLARIFICATION TALKS, SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR UNLIKELY. IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE MY PRESENCE AND THAT OF AS MANY OTHER CREDITOR REPRESENTATIVES AS CAN BE PERSUADED TO ACCOMPANY US TO ACCRA WOULD HELP OFFSET GHANAIAN DISAPPOINTMENT. I THEREFORE WILL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS NECESSARY TO BE FREE TO TRAVEL TO ACCRA ON OR ABOUT JULY 19 AND WILL APPRECIATE HEARING FURTHER FROM YOU AS YOUR TRAVEL PLANS MATURE. SHOULD YOU WISH ANY ASSISTANCE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO URGE OTHER CREDITORS TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES WITH US.

4. ALTHOUGH DAVID NEWSOM WILL BE ON VACATION IN MID-AUGUST, I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU HERE IN WASHINGTON
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AFTER THE OTTAWA MEETING. MY OWN PLANS PRECLUDE PARTICIPATION IN ANY MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 25 - SEPTEMBER 10. I COULD BE PRESENT AT A CREDITORS MEETING IN LONDON THE WEEK OF AUGUST 20, AND IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE IN ACCRA BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 10 AND THE IBRD-IMF MEETINGS OPENING IN NAIROBI SEPTEMBER 23. HOWEVER, I FEAR THE NAIROBI MEETING AND THE AUGUST HOLIDAYS OF OUR EUROPEAN ASSOCIATES WILL CAUSE THE POSTPONEMENT OF

A NEGOTIATING SESSION UNTIL OCTOBER. SINCERELY, BOB.
UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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